



Supervised Agricultural Experience Fact Sheet

SAE Supervision/Visitation

The applied nature of an SAE requires supervision outside the classroom, including regularly scheduled visits by the agriculture teacher to the student's home and/or place of employment. Thus the name "supervised" agricultural experience. Supervision is a collaborative effort between the agriculture teacher, parents/guardians, employers and others to assist students with SAE development and achievement goals. Each student, regardless of his or her SAE program, should receive individual guidance, advice and feedback on a regular basis. This ensures a safe, proactive and interactive learning environment, tailored to meet the needs of the student.

SAE supervision comes in many forms. This includes supervision provided by employers, parents or other adults on a daily basis, as well as supervision provided by the agriculture teacher during class time, at school facilities, events (FFA competitions, fairs, etc.) and through on-site visits. The latter is especially important as it allocates time for individual instruction and assessment. It is recommended that agriculture teachers make at least four visits per student, per year, although programs vary. This includes summer visits and activities. On-site visitation provides opportunities to:

- Create rapport among the agriculture teacher, student, parents and/or employers;
- Observe the student and see evidence of program improvement/development;
- Create and implement an SAE agreement and/or training plan;
- Allow students to demonstrate and apply new skills or proficiencies;
- Review record books, award applications and other relevant information;
- Assess student progress and make suggestions for improvement.

There is no replacement for on-site observation, supervision and instruction. However, if for any reason this is not possible, agriculture teachers need to find another venue for "observing" SAE programs. This can include in-class record keeping days, presentations, demonstrations or other tangible evaluation methods.

This level of supervision is what makes the SAE component of agricultural education so unique. Students are empowered to apply classroom skills, accept new challenges and achieve goals in a professional setting because they have the support of a dedicated team of adults. They are also given an opportunity to observe and learn from experienced professionals while developing their own talents and skills. This creates a venue for year-round learning and emphasizes the importance of SAEs as an integral component of agricultural education. Through SAE supervision and visitation, students can excel on their own accord but with the watchful eye of those who care.